

ROCK-CUT CAVES OF AURUNGBAD.—At a meeting of the Asiatic Society, on the 15th, Mr. Bradley read an account of the Rock-cut Caves of Aurungabad. The ruins of these Buddhist and Jain Cave-temples are found in the hills, within half an hour's walk to the north of Aurungabad; and are half concealed by fallen rock and earth. Much of the sculpture still remains in tolerable preservation; but the surprising wonders of Ellora have caused these caves to be hitherto but little noticed. The locality is marked by a small Jain cave, which is kept whitewashed by the devotees of the city: the other caves are more or less concealed by bushes, and accumulated rubbish. They are eleven in number, scattered over a space of about a mile and a half, and form three distinct groups. With the exception of the small cave first alluded to, they are all *vikāra*, or monastic caves, accompanied by the usual daghapa. One cave alone, containing a gigantic figure of a recumbent Buddha obtaining beatitude, appears to bear marks of antiquity. An arrangement seldom found in Buddhist excavations, but frequent in Brahminical and Jain caves, is here adopted—that of isolating the sanctum from the external wall by a passage going round it, containing chapels, and lateral cells for the priests. The walls appear to have been once covered with stucco paintings, which are now so obliterated, that their character cannot be determined; but the ornamental carving on the pillars, thrones, &c. is the exact counterpart of that at Ellora and Ajunta. In the second group of caves the general character of the sculpture is also Buddhistical. In one, however, there is a figure of *Lakshmi* seated, with two elephants pouring water over her. The most remarkable feature in this division is a series of eight groups of sculpture, representing, on projecting ledges, various figures in the attitude of prayer to the idol. The third group consists of three caves, all of which have been left in an unfinished state.

ST. THOMAS'S TEMPORARY CHURCH, WATERLOO-ROAD, LAMBETH.—The premises which have been converted to this purpose were formerly those of a builder. The four upper workshops have been arranged as a church. The part beneath is about to be converted into national schools; an extensive shed building into ragged schools; and the house flanking the entrance next the road will be residences for the masters and mistresses. The whole establishment will be rather an auxiliary to the permanent church. The entrance opens into a square vestibule (formerly the gateway); and from this, by an enclosed staircase, an ascent is effected to the church quite separate from the rest of the establishment. The church has the old openings for windows, filled with lead lights in quarries: it is arranged with a chancel and vestries on each side of open screen-work, extremely plain, with curtain hangings to the vestries. The seats are all open framed, and, with the pulpit and prayer desk, are of a very plain ecclesiastical character. The works are being done by Mr. Higge, of Davies-street, Berkeley-square, under the direction of Mr. S. S. Teulon.

PROPOSED RESTORATION OF GADDESBY CHURCH.—Endeavours are being made to raise funds for the restoration of the church of St. Luke, at Gaddesby, a beautiful and perfect specimen of the Decorated style of architecture, the pride of Leicestershire. During the last two centuries, this church has gone sadly to decay, and until within the last few weeks—when, by the munificence of a liberal individual in the parish, it was in part rescued from its deplorable condition—was in a lamentable state. Mr. T. L. Walker, by whom plans for the restoration have been made, says,—"It appears that the first formal grant by the Crown of the manor and church of Rothley to the Knights Templars bears date 14 Henry III., A.D. 1230, at which period a chapel must have existed at Gaddesby, as evidenced by the remains of the south doorway, which is of Early English workmanship, having the banded column and foliated capital of that period; and this doorway I believe to be in its original position. The tower and broach, and the nave, as far upwards as the sills of the clerestory win-

dows, I ascribe to the reign of Edward I., at which period the severity of the horizontal lines of the Early English style was scarcely relaxing, the string courses being still continued through the jamb-mouldings of the windows, as seen in the belfry openings of the tower, while the quatrefoiled circles in conjunction with the lancet heads of the lights were beginning to shadow forth the more perfect development of the beautiful geometrical tracery of the windows, which attained its zenith in the two subsequent reigns, as seen in the belfry windows and the Dormer openings of the broach. The broach itself is an Early English feature, but was retained by the architects of this reign. Like most adopted features in architecture, the broach had its origin in buildings of simple construction and rude materials, being derived from the low shingle roof of the towers often met with in the Early Norman churches, especially in Normandy itself."

ECCLESIOLOGICAL LATE CAMBRIDGE CAMDEN SOCIETY.—At a committee meeting on Nov. 13, the scheme for founding a "School of Art for Artist-workmen," suggested by Mr. Allen in *THE BUILDER*, was brought forward, and a general opinion was expressed favourable to the design. Among the letters read was one from the Rev. Dr. Garstin, with respect to the design furnished by Mr. Carpenter for the church at Point de Galle, in Ceylon. The plans, though designed on the data furnished from the island, were now considered not well suited to the climate, and some conversation ensued on the modifications possibly required for the *speluncar* theory of tropical church building, now advocated by the society, in places where, as on the coasts of Ceylon, it is considered as important to admit the sea-breezes as it is to exclude the light and heat of the sun. Some drawings of Swedish churches, their fittings and decorations, by M. Mandelgren, of Stockholm, were examined, and it was determined that a round church, with a round apsidal chancel, which appeared among the drawings, might form the *motif* of an alternative cemetery chapel. It was determined to give assistance to a farmer, carpenter, and innkeeper, who is substituting in his parish church capital oak seats of great substance and of excellent construction for the old pews, setting up stalls for the choir in the chancel, and a reading-desk and pulpit of oak,—all this very much at his own cost, and with the joint labour of himself and his son, a lad of seventeen.

A MONSTER FLOWER SHOW.—Will you allow me to suggest that a monster Flower and Botanical Show should be held in the Glass Palace at a time when the greatest variety of blossom and luxurious foliage could be obtained? This would afford an opportunity to all the amateur florists and nurserymen in the united kingdom to come in amicable competition for prizes which could be awarded out of the entrance fee; which would also be amply sufficient to cover all possible expense. Doubtless Prince Albert or the Queen would join their illustrious names in connection with the scheme, giving it *éclat*, and presiding at a display of the beauties of nature, to which "Solomon in all his glory" was not to be compared. I feel assured that every class of society would co-operate to crown with success the auspicious event. It could be made international by allowing the continental growers to assist at the inauguration of the goddess Flora. If arrangements could be made, I think the contribution of a display of living choice birds, British and foreign, would greatly add to the effect, combining amusement and instruction for the visitors.—H. B.

INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—On Monday, the 1st instant, Mons. M. P. Gauthier and Mons. O. Huvé, of France; Herr Stein, Aix-la-Chapelle; and Señor Lorenzo Hidalgo, Mexico, were elected corresponding members. A paper was read relative to the formation of a School of Art for Artist Workmen, and to the establishment of a Museum of Mediæval Art, by Mr. C. Bruce Allen, which led to an animated discussion. We are compelled to postpone mention of it, also several letters on the subject which have reached us.

TO INCREASE THE ILLUMINATING POWER OF GAS.—In one of your late numbers, you allude to a recent patent for improvements in the manufacture of gas, the object of which is to render the gases resulting from the decomposition of water suitable for lighting purposes, by passing them over canal coal in the process of distillation. I witnessed some experiments of this nature with the gases obtained from wood in the manufacture of pyroligneous acid, and have myself, for some time past, been making a series, using several descriptions of slightly illuminating gas, but principally those given out by peat and the lowest quality of coals, and the results are highly interesting. I find that a certain volume of such gas when passed through a heated retort containing Lancashire canal coal, becomes of much greater illuminating power than the same volume of such gas mechanically mixed in a gasholder with the gas given out by the canal; indeed, some of my experiments show this increase to be at least 50 per cent. when our common coal gas is so treated, as 10,000 feet of it may be passed through the retorts containing a ton of Lancashire canal in the process of distillation, and the result will be 20,000 feet of gas equal in quality to that given out by the canal alone, and it incurs no perceptible deterioration by being retained in a gasholder for several days.—C. C.

ANTIQUARIAN GOSSIP AT NEWCASTLE.—At the usual monthly meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, on 5th ultimo, reported by the *Gateshead Observer*, a paper by Mr. Hodgson Hinde was read, on the site of the Roman *Bremetenracum*, fixing it at Ribchester; while Camden, Horsley, Hodgson, Bruce, and others, had tolerably well made up their minds to confer the honour on Brampton, near Carlisle. Mr. Henry Glasford Potter has presented the Society with two papers on his discoveries within the station of Birdoswald, the Roman *Amboglanna*. Mr. Potter has, at considerable cost, exhumed two of the gates of the camp, as also some of the interior buildings, and has taken measures for their preservation. During this summer the Duke of Northumberland has had a portion of the courtyard of Warkworth Castle ridded of the *débris* which had long lain there, and exhumed the bases of several piers, which, in all probability, have supported the roof of a large hall. Mr. Benjamin Green has lately completed series of plans and elevations of the remains of Prudhoe Castle, whence the Duke obtains the title of Baron Prudhoe.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.—In last week's *BUILDER*, page 750, Mr. Scott asks, "whether there were ever any frescoes on the western wall of St. Andrew's, Holborn, prior to the repairs and erection of the little galleries about 1820?" There were two paintings formerly existing there, one of "Our Saviour giving Sight to the Blind," and another representing "The Sermon on the Mount." These are mentioned in "Allen's History of London," vol. iii., 614, and also alluded to in Mr. Godwin's work on the London Churches. *En passant* I may perhaps be allowed to correct a trifling error in vol. 3, p. 591, of the "Lives of the Chancellors." The choice of an instrument for the Temple Church, by Judge Jeffries, is well known: "He decreed for Smith's, the deep tones of whose organ still charm us. Harris's went to *Wolterhampton*." It might certainly have been sent there, but at all events it came back, for St. Andrew's, Holborn, possesses the very instrument rejected at the trial above mentioned, and which in quality of tone is reckoned to be of hardly inferior merit.—A. W. H.

THE IRON TRADE.—The Welsh iron works, especially those in Monmouthshire and the hill districts, are in a very inactive and depressed state. Men have been discharged at Llanely, and some of the other works are likely, it is thought, to follow the example. Meanwhile, as the Welsh go down, the Staffordshire become a little more buoyant, or rather a little less flat, although pig-iron has, in certain cases, been sold at a somewhat less price than heretofore. The Stourbridge miners struck for an advance of wages, but gave in. They have only three or four days' work a week on an average.